



NEWS RELEASE

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GEORGIA MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO LYING TO GRAND JURY ABOUT HIS FATHER'S ILLEGAL GUN PURCHASE

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. – Bradley J. Schlozman, United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, announced that the son of a defendant who was convicted in a separate federal indictment pleaded guilty in federal court today to providing false information to a federal grand jury.

Byron W. Thomas, 20, of Ft. Benning, Ga., pleaded guilty before U.S. District Judge Ortrie D. Smith this morning to the charge contained in an Aug. 17, 2005, federal indictment.

Thomas is the son of Edward Raifsnider, who was sentenced on March 15, 2006, to 15 years in federal prison without parole for illegally possessing firearms. By pleading guilty today, **Thomas** admitted that he provided false information during testimony before a federal grand jury on Sept. 15, 2004.

Raifsnider used the name Larry E. Killion as an alias identity in the purchase of a Savage Arms .22-caliber rifle. **Thomas** testified under oath on Sept. 15, 2004, that he purchased the rifle himself from a Wal-Mart store in Oklahoma, and that he was not aware that his father was using the name Larry Killion as an alias. **Thomas** later testified under oath on June 16, 2005, that his father filled out the paperwork to purchase the rifle and that he knew his father was a fugitive from justice who used the name Larry Killion as an alias.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard E. Monroe. It were investigated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, the U.S. Marshal Service, and the Missouri State Highway Patrol.

This news release, as well as additional information about the office of the United States Attorney for the Western District of Missouri, is available on-line at

www.usdoj.gov/usao/mow